Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A nucleic acid that has a modified expression in hyperplasias and/or tumours, characterised in that it comprises a nucleic acid sequence which is selected from the group comprising SEQ. ID. No. 1, 2, 7, 10, 11 and 12.

2. (Withdrawn) The nucleic acid according to claim 1, characterised in that the tumour is selected from the group comprising epithelial tumours with a change in the chromosomal band 19q and tumours with a change in the chromosomal band 19q13.

3. (Withdrawn) The nucleic acid according to claim 1 or claim 2, characterised in that the hyperplasia is selected from the group comprising hyperplasias of the thyroid.

4. (Withdrawn) The nucleic acid sequence according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that SEQ. ID. No. 1, 2, 7, 10, 11 and/or 12 codes for a CAT, especially a human CAT, or a part thereof.

5. (Withdrawn) A nucleic acid comprising a nucleic acid sequence which, without the degeneration of the genetic code, would code for the same amino acid sequence as a nucleic acid according to any one of claims 1 to 4.

6. (Withdrawn) A nucleic acid which hybridises to one of the nucleic acids according to any one of claims 1 to 5.

7. (Withdrawn) A vector characterised in that it comprises a nucleic acid according to any one of the preceding claims.

8. through 10. (Canceled)

11. (Withdrawn) A polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid according to any one of claims 1 to 6.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Withdrawn) A cell, preferably an isolated cell which comprises a vector according to claim 7.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) A purified antibody that it is directed against a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NOS: 1, 2, 7, 10, 11 and 12.

16. (Withdrawn) A ribozyme characterised in that it is directed against a nucleic acid according to any one of claims 1 to 6.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Withdrawn) An antisense nucleic acid comprising a sequence complementary to one of the nucleic acid sequences according to any one of claims 1 to 6.

19. (Withdrawn) A RNAi comprising a sequence complementary to or identical to one of the nucleic acids according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein preferably the RNAi comprises a region having a length of 21 to 23 nucleotides which is complementary or identical.

20. (Withdrawn) A method for determining a compound which influences the effect of a translation product of a nucleic acid according to any one of the preceding claims, especially inhibits said effect, characterised by the following steps:
    a) Providing the translation product and the compound
    b) Bringing into contact the translation product and the compound in a system which represents the effect of the translation product, and
    c) Determining whether any modification of the effect of the translation product occurs under the influence of the compound.

21. (Withdrawn) The method for determining a compound which influences the effect of a transcription product of a nucleic acid according to any one of the preceding claims, especially inhibits said effect, characterised by the following steps: a) Providing the

transcription product and the compound b) Bringing into contact the transcription product and the compound in a system which represents the effect of the transcription product, and c) Determining whether any modification of the effect of the transcription product occurs under the influence of the compound.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Withdrawn) The method for determining genes responsible for the formation of hyperplasias and tumours, especially of the thyroid, comprising the following steps: a) Determination of break points at chromosomal translocations of the hyperplasias and the tumours, b) Determination of genes which lie within a region of 400 kbp, preferably 150 kbp, in each direction from the break point region, and c) Determining whether the translation/transcription of the gene in a cell of the hyperplasia or of the tumour is modified compared with a non-hyperplasia cell or a non-tumour cell.

24. (Withdrawn) Use of a nucleic acid according to any one of claims 1 to 6 and/or a ribozyme according to claim 16 and/or an antisense nucleic acid according to claim 18 and/or an RNAi according to claim 19 for the diagnosis and/or treatment of functional disorders of the thyroid and/or hyperplasias of the thyroid and/or thyroid tumours.

25. (Withdrawn) Use of a nucleic acid according to any one of claims 1 to 6 and/or a ribozyme according to claim 16 and/or an antisense nucleic acid according to claim 18 and/or an RNAi according to claim 19 for the manufacture of a medicament, especially for the treatment and/or prevention of functional disorders of the thyroid and/or hyperplasias of the thyroid and/or thyroid tumours.

26. (Withdrawn) Use of a polypeptide according to claim 11 for the diagnosis and/or treatment of functional disorders of the thyroid and/or hyperplasias of the thyroid and/or thyroid tumours.

27. (Withdrawn) Use of a polypeptide according to claim 11 for the manufacture of a medicament, especially for the treatment and/or prevention of functional disorders of the thyroid and/or hyperplasias of the thyroid and/or thyroid tumours.

28. (Currently amended) A method of using ~~Use of~~ an antibody according to claim 15 for the diagnosis and/or treatment of functional disorders of the thyroid and/or hyperplasias of the thyroid and/or thyroid tumours.

29. (Currently amended) A method of using ~~Use of~~ an antibody according to claim 15 for the manufacture of a medicament.

30. (Original) A kit for the diagnosis of functional disorders of the thyroid and/or hyperplasias of the thyroid and/or thyroid tumours, characterised in that the kit comprises at least one element selected from the group comprising a nucleic acid, a vector, a polypeptide, a cell, an antibody, an antisense nucleic acid, RNAi and a ribozyme, each according to one of the preceding claims.

31. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting functional disorders of the thyroid and/or hyperplasias of the thyroid and/or thyroid tumours, characterised by the following steps:
    a) contacting thyroid material with the agent selected from the group comprising a nucleic acid, a vector, a polypeptide, an antibody, an antisense nucleic acid, RNAi, a ribozyme and a cell, each according to one of the preceding claims, and
    b) determining whether functional disorders of the thyroid and/or hyperplasias of the thyroid and/or thyroid tumours are present.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Withdrawn) Use of a nucleic acid according to any one of claims 1 to 6 as a primer and/or a probe.

34. (Withdrawn) A primer for representing and/or screening and/or detecting a nucleic acid, characterised in that it is complementary to a part of a nucleic acid sequence according to any one of claims 1 to 6.

35. (Withdrawn) Use of a primer for representing and/or screening and/or detecting a nucleic acid, preferably a nucleic acid according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the primer is complementary to a part of a nucleic acid sequence according to any

one of claims 1 to 6.

36. (Withdrawn) A method for representing a nucleic acid which comprises a sequence which can be detected in thyroid tumours or goitres, in which there is a translocation with a break point in the chromosomal band 19q13, wherein the sequence lies within the chromosomal band 19q13, characterised in that the method comprises the following steps:

    a) Providing at least one of the primers according to claim 34 for carrying out a polymerase chain reaction,
    b) Providing a nucleic acid sequence taken from the band 19q13 of the human chromosome 19 or a nucleic acid according to any one of claims 1 to 6,
    c) Mixing the nucleic acid sequence or the nucleic acid with the primers,
    d) Carrying out a polymerase chain reaction.

37. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition characterised in that it comprises: at least one agent selected from the group comprising a nucleic acid, a vector, a polypeptide, a cell, an antibody, an antisense nucleic acid, RNAi, a ribozyme, each according to one of the preceding claims, and a combination thereof, and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

38. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment and/or prevention of tumours and hyperplasias, characterised in that a compound is administered to a patient which prevents the effects of modified expression of the nucleic acids according to any one of the preceding claims.

39. (Withdrawn) Use of a compound which prevents the effects of modified expression of the nucleic acids according to any one of the preceding claims, for the manufacture of a medicament.

40. (Withdrawn) The use according to claim 39, characterised in that the medicament is for the treatment and/or prevention of tumours and/or hyperplasias, especially of tumours and/or hyperplasias of the thyroid.

41. (Withdrawn) Use of a nucleic acid having a sequence, wherein the sequence is selected

from the group comprising SEQ. ID. No. 1, 2, 7, 10, 11 and 12, or derivatives thereof and/or polypeptides encoded thereby or derivatives thereof for the manufacture of a medicament, especially for the treatment of functional disorders of the thyroid and/or hyperplasias of the thyroid and/or thyroid tumours and/or for the manufacture of a diagnostic means, especially for the diagnosis of functional disorders of the thyroid and/or hyperplasias of the thyroid and/or thyroid tumours.

42. (Withdrawn) The use according to claim 41, characterised in that the polypeptide has an amino acid sequence in accordance with SEQ. ID. No. 13 and/or SEQ. ID. No. 15.

43. (Withdrawn) The use according to claim 42 or 43, characterised in that the nucleic acid would hybridise with the nucleic acid according to one of the sequences SEQ. ID. No. 1, 2, 7, 10, 11 and 12 without the degeneracy of the genetic code.

44. (Withdrawn) Use of a polypeptide having a sequence, wherein the sequence is selected from the group comprising SEQ. ID. No. 13 and SEQ. ID. No. 15, or derivatives thereof for the manufacture of a medicament, especially for the treatment of functional disorders of the thyroid and/or hyperplasias of the thyroid and/or thyroid tumours and/or for the manufacture of a diagnostic means, especially for the diagnosis of functional disorders of the thyroid and/or hyperplasias of the thyroid and/or thyroid tumours.

45. (Withdrawn) A method for screening a means for the treatment of functional disorders of the thyroid and/or hyperplasias of the thyroid and/or thyroid tumours and/or a diagnostic means for the diagnosis of functional disorders of the thyroid and/or hyperplasias of the thyroid and/or thyroid tumours, comprising the steps:

a) Providing a candidate compound,

b) Providing an expression system and/or activity system;

c) Bringing the candidate compound in contact with the expression system and/or the activity system;

d) Determining whether under the influence of the candidate compound, the expression and/or the activity of a nucleic acid having a sequence, wherein the sequence is selected from the group comprising SEQ. ID. No. 1, 2, 7, 10, 11 and 12, or derivatives thereof and/or polypeptides encoded thereby and/or polypeptides having a sequence in accordance with SEQ. ID. No. 13 or 15 or derivatives thereof, is modified.

46. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 45, characterised in that the candidate compound is contained in a compound library.

47. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 45 or 46, characterised in that the candidate compound is selected from the group of compound classes comprising peptides, proteins, antibodies, anticalins, functional nucleic acids and small molecules.

48. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 47, characterised in that the functional nucleic acids are selected from the group comprising aptamers, aptazymes, ribozymes, spiegelmers, antisense oligonucleotides and RNAi.

49. (Withdrawn) Use of a nucleic acid having a sequence, wherein the sequence is selected from the group comprising SEQ. ID. No. 1, 2, 7, 10, 11 and 12, or derivatives thereof and/or polypeptides encoded thereby or derivatives thereof and/or a polypeptide having a sequence in accordance with SEQ. ID. No. 13 or 15 or a derivative thereof and/or an especially natural interaction partner of a nucleic acid having a sequence wherein the sequence is selected from the group comprising SEQ. ID. No. 1, 2, 7, 10, 11 and 12, or derivatives thereof and/or polypeptides encoded thereby or derivatives thereof and/or a nucleic acid coding therefore and/or an interaction partner of a polypeptide having a sequence in accordance with SEQ. ID. No. 13 or 15 or a derivative thereof as a target molecule for the development and/or manufacture of a diagnostic means for the diagnosis of functional disorders of the thyroid and/or hyperplasias of the thyroid and/or thyroid tumours and/or for the development and/or manufacture of a medicament for the prevention and/or treatment of functional disorders of the thyroid and/or hyperplasias of the thyroid and/or thyroid tumours.

50. (Withdrawn) The use according to claim 49, characterised in that the medicament or the

diagnostic means comprises an agent which is selected from the group comprising antibodies, peptides, anticalins, small molecules, antisense molecules, aptamers, spiegelmers and RNAi molecules.

51. (Withdrawn) The use according to claim 50, characterised in that the agent interacts with a polypeptide having a sequence in accordance with SEQ. ID. No. 13 or 15 or a derivative thereof or an interaction partner thereof.

52. (Withdrawn) The use according to claim 50, characterised in that the agent interacts with a nucleic acid having a sequence, wherein the sequence is selected from the group comprising SEQ. ID. No. 1, 2, 7, 10, 11 and 12, or derivatives thereof and/or with a nucleic acid coding for an especially natural interaction partner, especially with mRNA, genomic nucleic acid or cDNA.

53. (Withdrawn) Use of a polypeptide that interacts with a peptide which is encoded by a nucleic acid having a sequence wherein the sequence is selected from the group comprising SEQ. ID. No. 1, 2, 7, 10, 11 and 12, or derivatives thereof and/or with a polypeptide in accordance with SEQ. ID. No. 13 or 15 and/or interacts with an especially natural interaction partner thereof for the development or manufacture of a diagnostic means for the diagnosis of functional disorders of the thyroid and/or hyperplasias of the thyroid and/or thyroid tumours and/or for the development or manufacture of a medicament for the prevention and/or treatment of functional disorders of the thyroid and/or hyperplasias of the thyroid and/or thyroid tumours.

54. (Withdrawn) The use according to claim 53, characterised in that the polypeptide is selected from the group comprising antibodies and binding polypeptides.

55. (Withdrawn) Use of a nucleic acid that interacts with a polypeptide wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid having a sequence wherein the sequence is selected from the group comprising SEQ. ID. No. 1, 2, 7, 10, 11 and 12, or derivatives thereof and/or with a polypeptide in accordance with SEQ. ID. No. 13 or 15 and/or with an especially natural interaction partner thereof for the development or manufacture of a

diagnostic means for the diagnosis of functional disorders of the thyroid and/or hyperplasias of the thyroid and/or thyroid tumours and/or for the development or manufacture of a medicament for the prevention and/or treatment of functional disorders of the thyroid and/or hyperplasias of the thyroid and/or thyroid tumours.

56. (Withdrawn) The use according to claim 55, characterised in that the nucleic acid is selected from the group comprising aptamers and spiegelmers.

57. (Withdrawn) Use of a first nucleic acid that interacts with a second nucleic acid wherein the second nucleic acid has a sequence wherein the sequence is selected from the group comprising SEQ. ID. No. 1, 2, 7, 10, 11 and 12 or derivatives thereof and/or with a nucleic acid which codes for an interaction partner of a polypeptide having a sequence in accordance with SEQ. ID. No. 13 or 15 for the development or manufacture of a medicament for the prevention and/or treatment of functional disorders of the thyroid and/or hyperplasias of the thyroid and/or thyroid tumours.

58. (Withdrawn) The use according to claim 57, characterised in that the interacting first nucleic acid is an antisense oligonucleotide, a ribozyme and/or RNAi.

59. (Withdrawn) The use according to claim 57 or claim 58, characterised in that the second nucleic acid is the respective cDNA or mRNA.

60. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one agent selected from the group as defined by the use according to any one of claims 49 to 59, and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, especially for the prevention and/or treatment of functional disorders of the thyroid and/or hyperplasias of the thyroid and/or thyroid tumours.

61. (Withdrawn) A kit for characterising the state of the thyroid comprising at least one agent that is defined by the use according to any one of claims 49 to 59.